

working on all local functions and events. I am proud to congratulate Palma Yanni on being named UNICO's Lady of the Year, and thank her for her decades of leadership and selfless dedication to serving others.

RECOGNIZING NICK J. MANCE

HON. WILLIAM L. ENYART

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the dedicated community service of Mr. Nick J. Mance as he marks his 20th anniversary as a Trustee for Southwestern Illinois College.

Mr. Mance was elected to then Belleville Area College's Board of Trustees in 1993 and has been continuously re-elected since that time. His fellow Board members chose him to serve as the Board's Chair in 2001 and have re-elected him to this post each year since. In addition to his many duties as Board Chair, Mr. Mance works enthusiastically with the administration, faculty, and staff on the Facilities and Finance and the Planning and Policy Committees and the Strategic Planning Council, and has served on all of the Board's standing committees. Also, he has served as the Illinois Community College Trustee Association's Regional Chair and is an ex-officio member of the Southwestern Illinois College Foundation Board of Directors.

Mr. Mance is a certified public accountant and a partner in The Mance Leahy Group accounting firm in Columbia, Illinois. He helped found the company in 1991 with his partner, one employee and only one client. After 22 years in business, the firm has numerous employees and more than 1,000 clients.

As a Cahokia, Illinois resident, business owner, taxpayer, husband, father of three, grandfather of three, and past Chair of the Cahokia School District No. 187 Board, Mr. Mance chose to pursue a seat on the Southwestern Illinois College Board because he believed he could help ensure access to quality education for area residents, contribute to the success of the community college, and contribute to the success and growth of the Southwestern Illinois region.

Mr. Mance has consistently and actively helped SWIC maintain its longstanding accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission, and achieve model-institution recognition from the HLC for its Academic Quality Improvement Program initiatives and achievements by insisting on the highest academic standards and state-of-the-art classroom technology.

During his longstanding service to the Board of Trustees, Mr. Mance has been a proponent of capital development projects, including the construction of the Information Sciences Building, Liberal Arts Complex, and Schmidt Art Center at the Belleville Campus, and extensive expansions and renovations at the Red Bud and Sam Wolf Granite City campuses. Mr. Mance was one of the driving forces behind renaming the institution Southwestern Illinois College in 2000 to better reflect the college's 2,100-square-mile district; and renaming the Granite City Campus, the Sam Wolf Granite City Campus, in 2007 in honor of fellow SWIC Trustee and longtime legislator Sam Wolf.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of appreciation to Mr. Nick J. Mance for his 20 years of service as a Trustee of Southwestern Illinois College and to wish him the very best in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 12, I was unable to be present for the vote on H.R. 1513. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 32, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 32 due to inclement weather which prevented me from traveling from Williamsport, PA to Washington, DC. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CONGRATULATING MUSIC EDUCATOR KENT KNAPPENBERGER

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Westfield Academy and Central School educator, Kent Knappenberger on receiving the Music Educator Grammy Award. Mr. Knappenberger, a middle school and high school music teacher in Westfield, New York, was recently announced as the inaugural winner of this prestigious award.

Mr. Knappenberger, who holds a Master's Degree from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, accepted the award on January 25th in Los Angeles, California at the Special Merit Awards Ceremony & Nominees Reception with his wife, Nannette, and children in attendance. Kent was selected from over 30,000 initial nominations from all 50 States.

The Music Educator Award was created this year to bring attention to the lasting impact that teachers can have on their students both in and out of the classroom. Mr. Knappenberger is a world-class example of an educator whose 25 years of experience has had profoundly positive impacts on students' lives. In fact, Kent was nominated for this Grammy Award a total of three times—twice by former students and once by a former student's mother. This is a fitting example of the impact he has on the local community and his students' lives.

I once again congratulate Kent Knappenberger on receiving this Grammy Award and wish him continued success at Westfield Academy for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING ILLINOIS' 11TH DISTRICT FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize two intelligent and distinguished students from my district for receiving one of the most competitive merit-based grants in the world.

The Fulbright Program, sponsored by the Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, is a prestigious international exchange program that serves to cultivate knowledge and understanding between citizens of the United States and those across the globe.

Since its creation in 1946, the program has funded graduate study, research and teaching endeavors for over a quarter of a million people in 155 countries.

After a rigorous selection process based on academic achievements and leadership potential, Ms. Natalie Cain, a native of Darien studying at the University of Miami, and Mr. Matthew Ropp, a native of Oswego studying at Northern Illinois University, were selected for this prestigious program, where they will continue their studies in the fields of public health and English, respectively.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and celebrating the achievements of these two individuals and I wish them the best of luck in all of their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING POLICE OFFICER JASON WELLS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize police officer Jason Wells of Pearland, Texas. On October 24, 2013 Officer Wells was involved in a severe off-duty motorcycle accident. This accident left Officer Wells with several broken bones, and his left leg had to be amputated below the knee. Officer Wells is a single father to two young children, and previously protected our Nation honorably as a Marine.

Officer Wells still has a long road to recovery ahead of him. I'm pleased to be part of a community that has rallied to support him by hosting benefits for this hero. The proceeds will help fund Officer Wells' rehabilitation and the prosthetic limb he needs to get back on patrol. Every day in communities across America, police officers risk their lives to keep us safe. On behalf of all residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I am honored to recognize Officer Wells. Our community is proud of Officer Wells for his service to protect Pearland, Texas and our nation. We wish him the best in his recovery.